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Creating Jobs through Collaboration

May 2013



A Message from the Governor

In March, Maryland's dynamic private sector continued to drive our job growth, creating 5,100 jobs and bringing the number of private sector jobs in our state to its highest level in nearly five years. Maryland has now recovered 97 percent of the jobs lost during the Bush recession and our unemployment rate, while still too high, is 13 percent lower than the national rate.

There is no progress without a job. Together with the members of the General Assembly, we had a very productive legislative session where we passed meaningful legislation focused on creating jobs and expanding opportunity. We remain focused on strengthening and growing our businesses, and fueling the job-creating potential of Maryland's world-class innovation economy.

Thank you,
Governor O'Malley

What's happening?

Economic Development Mission to the Middle East

Governor Martin O'Malley, along with over 30 business, education, and civic leaders recently returned from an economic development mission to Israel and Jordan.

In a meeting with Knesset member Rabbi Dov Lipman, Governor O'Malley announced the first Maryland/Israel Advisory Board, which will connect Maryland and Israeli business and community leaders to encourage the development of jointly beneficial partnerships. Israeli businesses Shekel Scales, Askimo, Roboteam and Hybrid Security will also join the 20 Israeli companies that already have offices in Maryland.

On his visit to Amman, Jordan, Governor O'Malley met with the Regent, HRH



AROUND MARYLAND

2013 Springfest

May 2-5 at the Ocean City Boardwalk
Ring in the summer in Ocean City with a four-day festival filled with live entertainment, food, crafts, and much more!

FlowerMart

May 3-4 at Mt. Vernon Plaza in Baltimore
Stop and smell the flowers at the Baltimore FlowerMart. Over 100 vendors selling flowers and garden accessories paired with a wide array of entertainment provide the perfect setting to take in the beauty of spring.

Arts Walk

May 11 in Frostburg
Take a stroll through downtown Frostburg to experience a variety of arts and educational exhibits. Self-guided tours go from 5pm-8pm and include art galleries, dance performances, live music, and more.

For more events around Maryland, visit the [Maryland Tourism Office](#) and follow [@TravelMD](#) on Twitter.



What do Maryland's farmers produce best?



MARYLAND TWEETS

Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein. Maryland is the second largest U.S. import market by volume for Jordan. Members of the delegation also visited the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange to open a day of trading and meet with, among others, executives from Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and Elta Systems, who helped develop Israel's famed Iron Dome defense systems.

Governor O'Malley also met with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the importance of continuing to develop economic and business ties between Maryland and Israel. Additionally, Governor O'Malley met with Palestinian National Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, and Stephanie Williams, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan.



Supporting Our Veterans

Governor O'Malley welcomed First Lady Michelle Obama to Annapolis earlier this month. She joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr, House Speaker Michael E. Busch and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown for the signing of the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013.



First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden are committed to helping military veterans and families. The Department of Defense has identified 10 "key issues" important for the welfare of veterans, service members, and military families, including the development and adoption of state policies facilitating licensure and academic credit for relevant military training and experience.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 addresses these needs by removing barriers to degree completion and skills accreditation that service members often face when making the transition from military service to the civilian workforce. The bill also expedites the occupational and professional licensing process for military spouses when a military family moves to Maryland. [Read more and watch the bill signing.](#)



Marylander on the Move: Martha Connolly

Last month, Martha Connolly was inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows--the nation's leading advocacy group for medical and biological engineering, comprised of top scientists, educators and entrepreneurs.



Martha serves as Director of the [Maryland Industrial Partnerships](#) (MIPS) program at the University of Maryland's Technology Enterprise Institute. For a quarter of a century, MIPS has worked to connect biotech businesses with the University System of Maryland. Martha's experience as a top scientist and business leader has made her an invaluable part of Maryland's progress in bioscience and manufacturing.



Innovation Maryland: Central Business Licensing

In order to give Maryland entrepreneurs more time to focus on growing their business and spend less time on paperwork, Maryland launched the Central Business Licensing portal earlier this year. The website makes registering a



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[@GovernorOMalley](#):

Marylander leaders & I opened the Tel Aviv stock exchange this morning.

pic.twitter.com/lzFOs0F9dl

[@LtGovBrown](#): Maryland's

#lifescience sector was responsible for 1/3 of the job gains in our state btwn 2002 & 2010. #BioMaryland #biotech

[@StateMaryland](#): Now is the

time to nominate the MD volunteer that truly inspires you for the 30th Annual Governor's Service Awards! <http://ow.ly/kradM>

[@MDBiz](#): \$1M in seed funding

raised for [@AdStaq](#), an

[@InvMDChallenge](#) semi-finalist

and [@betamore](#)-grown

company bit.ly/Z9xa0P

business faster than ever before.

The Central Business Licensing initiative is a virtual “one stop shop” where business owners can register a new business, create legal entities, and register state tax accounts. Before this service, startups could spend up to 10 weeks awaiting administrative approvals. Now, the Central Business Licensing website reduces the turnaround time to merely 10 days. Since inception, nearly 3,000 businesses have taken advantage of these online services.

Learn more at easy.maryland.gov.



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